

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
January 20, 2015



Ed Kassman and his sister, Abby Kassman-Harned, entering the milking parlor at their family's farm on Route 66 in Columbia.

COLUMBIA FARM FIRST TO BE PROTECTED UNDER PILOT PRESERVATION PROGRAM

*By Katherine Winslow, Dept. of Agriculture Property Agent, and
Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky*

It was about an hour before sunset Monday when Ed Kassman spotted a rarely-seen creature prowling the hilltop hayfields at the Columbia farm that has been in his family for nearly a century.

"Bobcat," Kassman said with hushed excitement as he wheeled his blue pickup in the direction that the cat had scampered. "I haven't seen one of those more than once or twice around here."

Bobcats may not have a direct connection with agriculture, but the secretive animal's presence on the farm symbolizes why the Kassman family recently decided to convey its development rights to the state through the agriculture department.

"I can't imagine seeing this land any other way than what it is right now," said Kassman, who lives on the property bought by his grandfather in 1925. "I like the elbow room we have out here. I like to be able to see a bobcat running around."

The Kassman farm is one of several adjacent preserved farms along Route 66, including the Szedga and Robinson farms next door and Skyline Farm across the road – named for the spectacular view to the west that all the properties enjoy.

But the 53-acre Kassman farm – where hay and corn are raised for dairy and livestock support - is the first to be protected under a pilot program called the Community Farms Preservation Program (CFPP).

The program seeks to encourage cities and towns to preserve small farms of local economic importance, with a demonstrated level of community support.

Program applications are submitted by the municipality, with input from the farm owner. In the Kassman's case, community support included a financial contribution to the preservation agreement that was approved by Columbia voters at a town meeting last spring.

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

LOW HIGH

SLAUGHTER COWS:

breakers 75-80% lean	100.50	105.75
boners 80-85% lean	99.50	103.75
lean 85-90% lean	94.25	99.25

CALVES graded bull

No 1 95-120lbs	375.50	423.75
No 2 95-120lbs	345.50	389.50
No 3 80-120lbs	256.75	342.50

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

HiCh/Prm3-4	165.75	168.75
Ch2-3	159.50	160.50
Sel1-2	152.50	153.00

SLAUGHTER STEERS.

HiCh/prm3-4	166.75	171.75
Ch2-3	163.25	167.00
Sel1-3	152.50	155.75

SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS

HiCh/prm3-4	146.50	151.75
Ch2-3	139.25	144.50
Sel1-2	130.50	132.50

VEALERS

	63.00	147.50
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SLAUGHTER LAMBS: ch/pr 2-3

40-60lbs	335.00	345.00
60-80lbs	250.00	280.00
110-130lbs	196.00	222.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3

120-160lbs	130.00	157.00
160-200lbs	n/a	

BUCKS

170-200lbs	120.00	132.00
200-250lbs	90.00	130.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel.1, by head, est.

20-40lb	n/a	
40-60lb	200.00	220.00
60-80lb	170.00	190.00
80-100	245.00	260.00
Nannies/Does: 90-100lbs	250.00	260.00
130-140lbs	215.00	225.00
Bucks/Billies: 110-140lbs	265.00	275.00
160-180lbs	285.00	377.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

48-52	250-350 lbs	55.00	60.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	n/a
52-56	250-350 lbs	60.00	70.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	n/a
Sows, US1-3	400-600 lbs	50.00	53.00
Low dress	400-600 lbs	40.00	42.00
Boars	650-800 lbs	25.00	25.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
LETTUCE, BOSTON, GH, 12/4OZ	15.00	17.00
CIDER 9-1/2 GAL	17.00	17.00
APPLE PINK LADY 88CT, XFCY	24.00	24.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
POTATOES, WHITE CHEF, 50LB	11.00	11.00
SQUASH, BUTRNU, MED, 1 1/9	13.00	13.00
CRANBERRIES 24/12OZ	6.00	8.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	19.00	22.00
TOMATOES, 11LB, VR	25.00	25.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3 XFCY	17.00	17.00
APPLE, MAC, 80, TRYPK USFCY	20.00	22.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 120, US FCY	19.00	19.00
APPLE, RED DEL, 100 CT, XFCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 120, US#1	17.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12/3	15.00	15.00
APPLE, HNYCRSP, 88, USFCY	30.00	30.00

SHIPPED IN

CHERRIES, 5KG, CHILE, JBO	35.00	36.00
ORANGES, NAVEL, 88 7/10BU	22.00	24.00
CARROTS, BABY, CA 15/2LB	23.00	23.00
BROCCOLI, 20LB, CA, CRWN	27.00	34.00
STAR FRUIT, 28, CA	15.00	15.00
SPINACH, BABY, 4LB, CA	9.00	11.00

**NORTHEAST/USDA PORK
WEEKLY RETAIL PRICES
PER LB, CHOICE**

LOIN ROAST, BLS	1.99	3.99
CC CHOPS B/IN	1.79	3.99
SMOKED CHOPS	5.29	5.29
BACKRIBS	2.99	5.49
BUTT B/IN	1.49	3.99
PORK STEAK	1.59	2.99
CS RIBS B/IN	1.49	3.49
GROUND PORK	3.99	3.99

HAY**LANCASTER, PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	230.00-365.00	215.00
MIXED HAY	235.00-400.00	190.00-230.00
TIMOTHY	225.00-300.00	n/a
STRAW	130.00-240.00	

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT, Jan. 19, 2015

LOW HIGH

Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	55.00	65.00
61-75 lbs.	85.00	140.00
76-90 lbs.	290.00	310.00
91-105 lbs.	315.00	320.00
106 lbs. & up	325.00	330.00
Farm Calves	340.00	350.00
Starter Calves	50.00	60.00
Veal Calves	115.00	180.00
Open Heifers	120.00	135.00
Beef Heifers	110.00	136.00
Feeder Steers	125.00	160.00
Beef Steers	118.00	140.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	170.00
Beef Bulls	134.50	137.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	40.00	60.00
Sheep	105.00	145.00
Lambs	80.00	170.00
Goats each	122.50	330.00
Kid Goats	112.50	190.00
Canners	up to	110.00
Cutters	111.00	114.00
Utility Grade Cows	115.00	117.00
Rabbits each	3.00	32.00
Chickens each	5.00	24.00
Ducks each	6.00	27.50

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.07	1.26
LARGE	1.01	1.15
MEDIUM	.92	1.05

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.03	2.15
LARGE	1.99	2.09
MEDIUM	1.43	1.53

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US # 1	n/a	
US # 2		
40-60lb	83.00	96.00
84-95lb	75.00	77.00
113-131lb	70.00	81.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

7-R. Ford Skidsteer, Wisconsin V4, bucket, extension for snow, Hay Spike attachment, excellent condition, inside stored. \$4,900. 860-877-3335.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

10-R. Hay for Sale. First cutting \$5.50 each plus tax. Second cutting \$5.75 each plus tax. Call 860-635-1379.

11-R. Goats. Kiko/Savanna bucks, 10 months old. \$170.00. Dried Chicken manure by the trailer load. 860-537-1974.

13. Add some hardy heritage breed traits in your high maintenance sheep flock. Add some spring to your fiber product. Gulf Coast Native ram and ewe, born 12/23/2014, can provide these benefits. Will be registered and weaned the end of February 2015. FFA and 4-H discount with proof of current membership. 860-803-5599.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

12-R. Calling all farmers in Middlesex County for development of website and brochure, free marketing. Please contact the RiverCOG: 860-581-8554, or nhougrand@rivercog.org with farm name and contact info.

WANTED

14. Community Farm of Simsbury seeks an experienced full time farm manager for their agricultural operation (produce, livestock, CSA, retail and wholesale). The Farm Manager is responsible for field equipment, and resource management; the incubator farmer program; budgeting; management of the annual farm plan; integration with educational programming; communications and outreach. Contact dgoode@giftsoflovect.org for a job description.

COLUMBIA FARM FIRST TO BE PROTECTED UNDER PILOT PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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Both the Kassman and Szedga farms were preserved through a partnership of the state, the town of Columbia and the Connecticut Farmland Trust. Joshua's Tract Conservation & Historic Trust of Mansfield, also made a financial contribution to the town's share.

CFPP was created in 2011 as an alternative for farmers whose land may not qualify for funding through the department's long-running Farmland Preservation Program, which has protected more than 300 farms and 40,000 acres.

Led by Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, the agriculture department established criteria for the CFPP in consultation with the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board.

The \$2 million pilot program, funded through the Community Investment Act, drew nine applications and six farms are currently in various stages of the approval process for sale of development rights.

Currently, 26 towns representing all eight counties in Connecticut have completed eligibility requirements to apply to the CFPP.

The number of towns capable of working on joint state-municipal projects to preserve development rights has more than doubled under the CFPP.

Commissioner Reviczky encourages all municipalities, rural or urban, to consider participation in the program.

"Leveraging funding through partnerships with local, state and federal programs gives municipalities added opportunities to protect working lands that are so important to local communities," Reviczky said.

Towns may submit documentation of the following basic town eligibility requirements listed below to establish eligibility:

- Recognize farmland preservation in the municipal plan of conservation & development.
- Establish an agricultural commission. This may be combined with a conservation commission or, less optimally, a sub-committee of an existing commission.
- Establish a funding mechanism for agricultural lands preservation. At least \$1 must exist in the account, and if desired this account may be combined with open space preservation.
- Inventory farmland in the municipality, including that under Public Act 490.
- Apply to the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) for farmland of local importance designation.
- Enter a cooperative letter of joint partnership for the preservation of agricultural lands between the state and the municipality. This does not obligate a town to preserve any particular farm but signifies its readiness to participate in joint projects for individual farms if it chooses.
- Determine criteria for prioritizing the farms in the community, such as whether they are of prime, statewide important, and locally important farmland soil.

Once a city or town has completed its eligibility requirements, it may work with willing local farmers to submit one or more CFPP applications.

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Harvest New England
harvestnewengland.org

2015

**Harvest New England
Ag Marketing
Conference and
Trade Show**

February 25 and 26, 2015
Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA
To register online and for the latest conference updates,
visit HarvestNewEngland.org/events

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Applications are evaluated by staff at the agriculture department, and if qualified and funding permits, they are entered into the process for purchase of development rights.

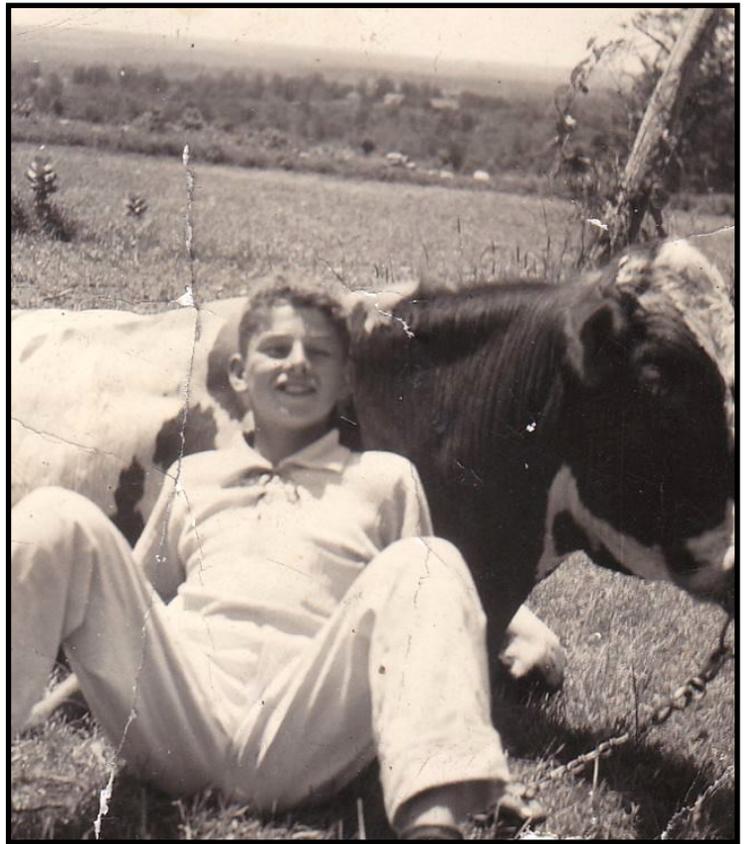
The Kassman Farm was preserved through the impetus of the five heirs of owner Morris Kassman, who before he died in 2011 had expressed his desire to keep the property in agricultural production.

The farm contains 30 acres of prime and statewide important farmland soils, and has gone through phases as a poultry and then a dairy farm.

The Kassman family now leases the cropland to two local dairy farmers, and will likely sell the property in the near future.

"We just decided that we aren't able to continue farming ourselves, but we strongly believe that this land should remain in farming," said Abby Kassman-Harned, one of Morris Kassman's nieces. "The lessons we learned and the appreciation we gained by learning and living the lives of a farm family will be with all of us for the rest of our lives. Knowing that it will remain undeveloped and preserved for agricultural use gives us peace of mind and happy hearts."

Questions regarding the CFPP may be directed to Katherine Winslow, Property Agent, at katherine.winslow@ct.gov or Cameron Weimar, Director of Farmland Preservation Program, at cam.weimar@ct.gov, or 860-713-2511.



Above: Sam Kassman, oldest son on the original Kassman farm, with his pet cow circa 1938. Relatives say he once brought the cow to class at the local one-room schoolhouse, earning him a detention.



Left: Ed Kassman and Abby Kassman-Harned look over a cornfield that is part of their 53-acre farm in Columbia, the first in Connecticut to be protected under a pilot farmland-preservation program that emphasizes community involvement.

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